STOP THE ISRAEL-US WAR ON IRAN

Socialist Party Scotland

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Build socialist struggle to end the rule of the capitalist warmongers

- End the war on Iran, the siege on Gaza and the occupation of all Palestinian territories. For the immediate and permanent withdrawal of the Israeli military from all those areas
- For a mass anti-war movement with workers' action against war. For struggle of the Palestinians, under their own democratic control, to fight for liberation
- For the building of independent workers' parties in Palestine, Iran, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and across the region with links between them
- For a workers' government in Iran, an independent, socialist Palestinian state, alongside a socialist Israel, with guaranteed democratic rights for all minorities, as part of the struggle for a socialist Middle East
- No trust in capitalist politicians internationally. Fight to build workers' parties that stand for socialism and internationalism

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ONLY THE WORKING CLASS AND POOR CAN END WAR AND [illegible]

Trump's decision to join in the Israeli state's bombing war on Iran clearly marks a new turning point in the already bloody slaughter that has gripped increasing areas of the Middle East. Mass demonstrations and workers' struggles must be organised globally to end the rule of the warmongers

Immediately after the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack the Israeli state began its systematic destruction of Gaza and imposed brutal siege conditions on its population. Simultaneously, state and settler oppression of Palestinians living in east Jerusalem and the West Bank dramatically increased.

The Israeli leadership have drawn the conclusion that, at the very least, significant numbers of Palestinians need to be removed from Gaza in order, they hope, to kill off the idea of building a Palestinian state. Soon, fighting spread to Lebanon and then the Israeli state seized the opportunity given by Assad's overthrow to seize significant areas of Syria.

Now the open entry of the US onto the battlefield on the side of Netanyahu and its extension to Iran has created a new situation. Despite Trump's bombastic claims it is becoming clear that the US bombs on June 21 did not result in "complete and total obliterating" of Iran's nuclear facilities.

The propaganda machines have gone into top gear. The Western countries continually say that Iran cannot have nuclear weapons, but are continually silent both about Israel's nuclear weapons and the Israeli state's brutal record of oppression and land seizures.

The British prime minister Starmer effectively justified Trump's bombing campaign by describing Iran's nuclear programme as "a grave threat to international security" Starmer's refusal to call on Israel government to stop its own bombing campaign mirrors his attitude to the IDF's assault on Gaza – indeed right at the start in October 2023 he argued that "Israel has the right" to withhold electricity and water from Palestinian civilians. The SNP leader John Swinney has refused to condemn the US and Israeli attack on Iran.

Since then the numbers killed, overwhelmingly by Israeli forces, in Gaza are, in reality, unknown but 60,000 is certainly a minimum. That's 2.6% of Gaza's prewar population, a horrendous death toll which in US terms would be the equivalent of at least 9 million dead.

For US imperialism, Starmer and co. the Israeli capitalist state is a useful ally in an unstable, yet key, resource rich and strategically important region. Internationally there will be tremendous repercussions. In the US, the fact that Trump ignored the 1973 War Powers Act without congressional approval will only fuel resistance to the policies he is putting pursuing.

Already opposition is building to him as seen in the June 14 'No Kings' demonstrations across the US. His base of support can be weakened further by his attack on Iran

In the US the opposition to successive administration's support of the Israeli state's repression of Palestinians needs to be independent of both Democrats and Republicans. In the Middle East, and in countries with significant Muslim populations, there will be a further rise both in anger and frustration that nothing is being significantly done to aid the Palestinians.

Of course there will be angry official statements from some governments but who in reality do nothing to aid the Palestinian struggle.

no way forward under capitalism

It is clear that no capitalist governments will act unless it is forced to by pressure and movements from below and, even then, such governments will act in a way to benefit their own ruling class. This makes it even more important that Socialists argue for and strive to build a genuine alternative to this cycle of oppression and wars.

The day before the US starting bombing a key Iranian trade union issued an important statement. The Syndicate of Workers of Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company is a semi-legal trade union which has resisted repression over the years and led important struggles in the Iranian capital. They said:

"The backbone of this struggle is the independent, collective, and organized power of workers, justice-seeking people, and the global working class. It not only rejects all imperial powers, but has also suffered serious harm from their interventions, which have undermined and damaged social foundations and class solidarity."

The question of how to meet the challenge of building a force – a revolutionary party and wider workers' organisations – that can achieve the aims of the Tehran bus workers' statement, will become key.

Socialists would argue that to achieve these objectives means replacing the existing government with one of representatives of workers and the poor, with policies for the needs of the working masses and their families.

Such a workers' government could break with oppression, capitalism and imperialism and begin to offer a new socialist future to all the peoples in Middle East, in a voluntary and equal socialist confederation, and give an example for the world to follow.